

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: MacDonald et al.

Serial No. 09/288,837

Filed: 8 April 1999

For: METHODS AND MODIFIED CELLS
FOR THE TREATMENT OF CANCER

Group Art Unit: 1642

Examiner: B. Brumback

Date: February 20, 2001

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated October 18, 2000, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered in view of the following amendments and remarks.

In the Claims.

Please cancel Claims 4, 13 and 14 for the purposes of re-writing.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A composition comprising infectious alphavirus particles in an immunogenically [immunogenic] effective amount, wherein said alphavirus particles comprise one or more heterologous nucleotide sequences encoding an antigen; and wherein at least one of said antigens [antigen] is an artificial cancer antigen that is not normally expressed by a cancer cell, wherein said artificial cancer antigen is selected from the group consisting of a helper T cell epitope, a cytotoxic T cell epitope, a T-dependent B cell epitope, and a T-independent B cell epitope, and further wherein said alphavirus particles comprise one or more attenuating mutations.

16. (Amended) A kit for modifying a mammalian cell, comprising:
(a) assay components for determining the pre-existing immunity of a mammalian subject afflicted with cancer to one or more antigens; and

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